



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

July 24, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Brian J. Whiston, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian".

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Pilot Parenting Education Grants and Program Evaluation

In his Executive Budget proposed for fiscal year 2016, Governor Snyder recommended multiple initiatives designed to intervene early to address third grade reading proficiency. In addition, on March 1, 2015, Governor Snyder supported the Third-Grade Reading Workgroup to analyze Michigan's reading proficiency at the third-grade level, and to suggest policy to improve this necessary element of future academic and career success. Five key strategies of the comprehensive plan that was developed included Strategy 3: *Give every parent the information and support needed to develop early literacy skills, to parent effectively, and to provide adequate home-supports for every student.* The Parenting Education Program is the primary strategy that was recommended in the report, modeled after Minnesota's Early Childhood Family Education program. The purpose of the grants is to pilot parenting education programs for parents of children less than 4 years of age so that children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.

The State School Aid Act, Public Act 85 of 2015, contains statutory expectations for the pilot programs, as well as the expectation that there be an evaluation of the programs. The attached document contains criteria for both the evaluation and the elements that the competitive pilot parenting education program grants should address in order to meet legislative expectations and enable successful implementation.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for Pilot Parenting Education Grants and Program Evaluation as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated July 24, 2015.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Pilot Parenting Education Programs and Program Evaluation

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant supports the mission, priorities, and/or policies of the State Board of Education (SBE) and/or Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

The Michigan State Board of Education has adopted two overarching priorities to ensure substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in pursuit of the above stated mission. Specifically, the Parenting Education Program grants support MDE's Priority 3 (i.e., increase the number of children who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade).

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Type of Grant Program:

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Formula |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal | |

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CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: _____ N/A _____

Source of Criteria:

- ☐ A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation
☒ B. State Law or Rules*

- ☒ C. Proposed by Staff**
☐ D. Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder

The main criteria upon which grantees will be selected are the following:

For the Program Evaluation Study

The successful applicant will have experience with evaluation of community-based parenting programs for parents of children less than 4 years old, and with data-driven program improvement and expansion activities. The successful applicant will:

- Identify and provide descriptions of key strategies for data collection and processes for the evaluation of the pilot programs at the selected sites around the state, utilizing the Michigan Student Data System and Longitudinal Data System, as possible;** Evaluation of the pilot program should include, but not be limited to identifying the components of the pilot programs that were effective in helping parents prepare their children for success in school, as well as barriers that prevented access for parents and children to participating in the pilot program;*
- Describe mechanisms of communication and training/technical assistance with pilot program sites to ensure efficient, complete, and accurate data collection and reporting;**
- Propose a design for following children that participated in the pilot program as they enter kindergarten and progress into fourth grade, as a way of determining the effectiveness of the pilot parenting programs in reaching the desired outcomes;**
- Describe strategies to collect and document (e.g., in data system) required demographic information of all families and children participating in the program;** and
- Provide assurance that a report containing legislatively-mandated elements will be submitted annually.**

The evaluation report shall include at least all of the following:

- A description of the components of the pilot programs that were effective in helping parents prepare their children for success in school.*
- A description of any barriers that parents and their children encountered that prevented them from participating in the pilot programs.*
- An assessment of whether these pilot programs should be expanded to other locations in the state.*

For the Pilot Parenting Education Programs

The model upon which the legislation was developed includes highly qualified staff implementing intentional curriculum in early childhood, parenting education and parent-child interactions. Supports for families to fully and consistently participate are key to successful implementation. The successful applicant will:

- describe key elements of the program design including the names of the district or consortium of districts that will operate the program, and the physical location of the program;*
- provide an estimate of the number of families residing in the district or consortium of districts that will operate the pilot program that have at least 1 child less than 4 years of age and the anticipated number of families that will be served;*
- provide a needs assessment that describes district/consortia of districts data affiliated with the planned target population of families;**
- request funds based upon the number of children residing in the district or consortium of districts operating the program who are younger than 4 years of age¹ multiplied by \$120 per child or \$130,000, whichever is less;*
- assure that a sliding fee scale that will be established for tuition, with fees reduced or waived for those unable to pay;*
- propose an estimated overall budget for the program, designating no more than 5% of the grant to administer the program;*
- assure that the program will be supervised by a teacher who has a valid teaching certificate with an early childhood (ZA or ZS) endorsement, a valid teaching certificate in career education with both a KH and VH endorsement, a bachelor's degree in child development or early child development, or a bachelor's degree related to adult learning;*
- identify a schedule that provides for at least 2 hours per week throughout the school year, and assurance of the requirement that parents be physically present in classes with their eligible children or be in concurrent classes;*
- describe the research-based strategies, goals, and curriculum for parents focused on development of children in the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional domains;*
- describe the structured learning activities that will require interaction between children and their parents;*
- describe the manner in which developmentally appropriate learning activities for children would be designed to promote positive interaction with their peers,* and any planned developmental screening or child development assessments that would be conducted to inform those activities;**
- describe, if applicable to the proposed population, any adult learning supports that will be coordinated with the Parenting Education Program (e.g., Michigan Works, adult education, ESL instruction);**
- describe the manner in which the program will provide referrals for supports for families to reduce barriers to participation, provide stability and increase the likelihood of consistent participation in the program;**
- describe, if applicable to the proposed population to be served and based on family preferences, the referral and transition supports for families and their children articulating from the parenting education program into high quality early learning settings;**
- describe the public awareness and outreach efforts that will be made;*

- describe other aspects of program design that assist in eliminating barriers to participation;**
- document that the proposed pilot parenting education program integrates with goals set forth in the area's Great Start Collaborative Strategic Plan;** and
- assure that the intermediate district and the district or consortium of districts operating the program will provide information in a form and manner as approved by the department to allow for an evaluation of the pilot projects.*

¹ Age is determined according to the date specified for a child's eligibility to attend school under section 1147 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1147

* Criteria Defined in Statute

** Criteria Defined by Staff

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED

Eligible applicants are intermediate school districts (ISDs) submitting on behalf of a district or consortium of districts within the intermediate school district. Legislation requires that grants are awarded in each of Michigan's prosperity regions or sub-regions.

Parenting education grants will serve parents of children birth through age three.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

Evaluation:	\$100,000
Pilot Programs:	\$1,000,000

STATUTE

P.A. 85 of 2015, State School Aid Act, sections 35 (3) and 35a (2)

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of Great Start/Early Childhood Development and Family Education	
Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent	517-335-4092
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